

Google hacking allegations
very serious pg 2

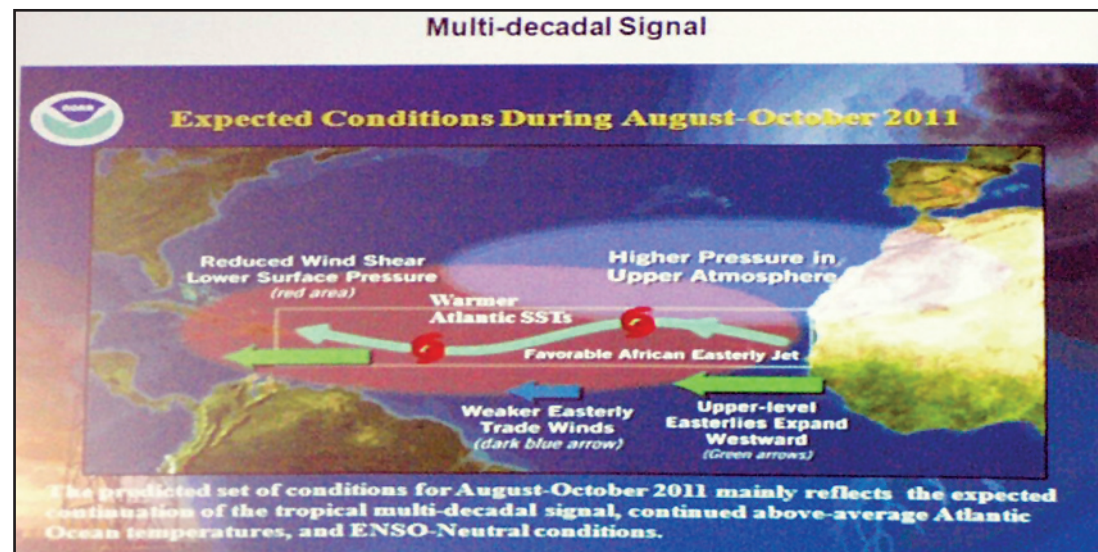
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florins affords... pg 3

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anniversary... pg 8

June 1 marks the official start of Storm Season 2011



Prime Minister Eman with Storm Team Leaders



Expected wind conditions during storm season 2011

Annual Storm Season officially started on Tuesday, June 1, and the time until November 30 is when Caribbean disaster management officials and residents throughout the region must be on the alert, as spring weather conditions and exceptionally high sea surface temperatures are indicating the likelihood of a busy season again this year.

Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman called a press conference to remind the public of the importance of being prepared. Even though Aruba is considered south of the "Hurricane Belt," huge storms, such as Hurricane Ivan in 2004, came very close to the island, producing heavy seas and tor-

rential rains for long hours and consequentially, serious flooding. He introduced the representatives of various public agencies which will work cooperatively in the advent of a major storm following a course that will bring it to Aruba. Jaime Donata is the Director of Aruba's Crisis Management Office, the Rampenbestrijding; he will lead the efforts of police, fire department, Department of Health, and volunteers from the Red Cross, who collaborate when Aruba is threatened by a major storm. Representing them during the call to alertness were, respectively, Deputy Police Commissioner Trudy Hassel, Officer Edward de Cuba, Mr.

Geerman from the Health Department.

Marck Oduber, MSC, Aruba's head meteorologist, announced that since the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles on October 10 of last year, islanders must check with local offices for weather reports; they can do so at www.meteo.aw. He also related NOAA storm predications for 2011, based on figures from NSCU and SCU experts as of April 14 and 6 of this year, after evaluating wind conditions and surface temperatures in the Atlantic, which prove to be higher each year, thus contributing to more frequent and powerful storms.

Continued on page 5

First Nat'l. Competitiveness and Innovation Summit- NCIC 2011



Keynote speaker Richard Harrill

The National Commission for Innovation and Competitiveness, NCIC- "not to be confused with the Navel Criminal Investigation Service-NCIS" emphasized their Chairperson, Dr. Ryan Peterson, conducted their first summit conference on Wednesday afternoon, June 1 at the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad.

The commission was chartered by Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winkler, and its purpose should be considered in context with her introduction of "The Green Gateway" the Monday prior, an economic mission and vision for the next two years, much of which will be based on the findings and recommendations of the NCIC. One principle premise for Aruba achieving economic sustainability is to pursue and realize a "Knowledge and Innovation Driven Economy." This first summit attracted an audience of businessmen, educators and government administrators. Its stated purpose and principles are:

- Establishing a public/private platform for innovation and competitiveness;
- Economic Policy De-



Carlos Maduro of Office Systems



Ryan Peterson Chairman of the NCIC

- velopment and Research;
- To council and monitor policy measures;
 - Establish a knowledge based partnership;
 - Research & Human Capital on Aruba;
 - Facilitate Smart Governance

The final principle is of particular interest, as Dr. Peterson differentiated SMART Governance from GOOD Governance, emphasizing Aruba's need for the former, at this time, which will naturally result in the latter.

Continued on page 3

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

War on drugs has failed, say former leaders

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - The global war on drugs has failed and decriminalizing narcotics such as marijuana could finally help weaken organized gangs, former world leaders said Thursday in a controversial report.

Arguing for a new approach to national and global drug control policies, the Global Commission on Drug Policy called for nations to "break the taboo on debate and reform."

"Fifty years after the initiation of the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, and 40 years after President (Richard) Nixon launched the US government's war on drugs, fundamental reforms in national and global drug control policies are urgently needed."

The commission includes former Brazilian president Fernando Cardoso, former Colombian president Cesar

Gaviria, Mexico's former president Ernesto Zedillo as well as ex-UN chief Kofi Annan.

It also includes noted writers such as Mexico's Carlos Fuentes and Peruvian Nobel laureate Mario Vargas Llosa.

The millions of dollars poured into the fight against drug producers and traffickers over the past decades "have clearly failed to effectively curtail supply or consumption," the report said.

The group of prominent statesmen, many from countries on the frontline of the seemingly never-ending war on drugs, said purely punitive measures had in fact led to a

situation where "the global scale of illegal drug markets - largely controlled by organized crime -- has grown dramatically."

Repression of consumers such as jailing those found in possession of drugs were distracting from other public health measures, such as the battle against AIDS and HIV, it argued.

Saying restrictions on marijuana should be loosened, the report urged governments to "end the criminalization, marginalization and stigmatization of people who use drugs but who do no harm to others."

Clinton: Google hacking allegations very serious

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Thursday that the US government is studying Google's "very serious" allegations of a cyber spying campaign originating in China.

China said Thursday it was "unacceptable" to blame it for a cyberspying campaign which Google said had targeted the Gmail accounts of senior US officials, journalists and Chinese activists.

The comments marked the latest salvo in a battle between the Chinese government and Google dating back to last year when the US Internet giant revealed it had been the victim of a separate China-based cyberattack.

Google said Wednesday it was hit by a cyberspying campaign that appeared to have originated in Jinan, capital of the eastern Chinese province of Shandong.

The company did not

specifically point the finger of blame at Chinese authorities.

Clinton said the company had informed the State Department on Wednesday about its claims before disclosing them publicly.

White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters meanwhile that President Barack Obama is "obviously aware" of the Google allegations and "updated on these sorts of things regularly."

"Threats to information and communications infrastructure pose a serious economic and national security challenge for the United States and our partners, which is why the president has made cybersecurity one of his top priorities," Carney said.

"As with all intrusions, we employ an all-of-government approach with the appropriate agency in the lead. In this case, the FBI is coordinating a response," he added.

Three suspected cases of mystery e-coli in US

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Health officials said Thursday three people in the United States are suspected to have fallen ill from e-coli bacteria after traveling to Germany where the mystery outbreak has killed 17.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was awaiting the analysis of stool samples before any confirmation could be made, spokesman Tom Skinner told AFP. The suspected cases were not fatal.

Earlier, Britain said seven people there had been infected with the bacteria, including three British nationals who had recently travelled to Germany and four German nationals.

German authorities have failed to pinpoint the source of the bacteria, which has sickened more than 2,000 people in the last month, but have warned consumers against eating raw vegetables.

The Enterohaemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC) has caused full-blown haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS), a potentially deadly disease that causes bloody diarrhea and serious liver damage, in 500 of those infected.

Huge blast at Welsh oil refinery

LONDON, England (AFP) - Fire crews on Thursday extinguished a blaze at an oil refinery in Pembroke Dock, Wales, after a series of explosions rocked the Chevron plant.

Around 50 firefighters tackled the blaze, according to Mid and West Wales Fires Service, which is believed to have been caused by an exploding tanker.

"Emergency services were called and they remain on the scene. The fire has been extinguished. 'Appropriate action has been taken to respond to the situation,' continued the statement. 'We are still in the process of accounting for all the personnel. Additional information will be provided as soon as it becomes available,' the oil company added.

According to a witness, a thick plume of smoke could be seen for kilometres (miles) around.

"I was leaving the site at the end of the day and I could here explosions and see plumes of smoke," he told the BBC. "You could see flames on the pipework from across the valley," he added.

Local fire and police services could not confirm if there had been any casualties.

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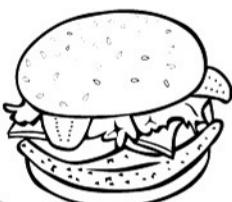
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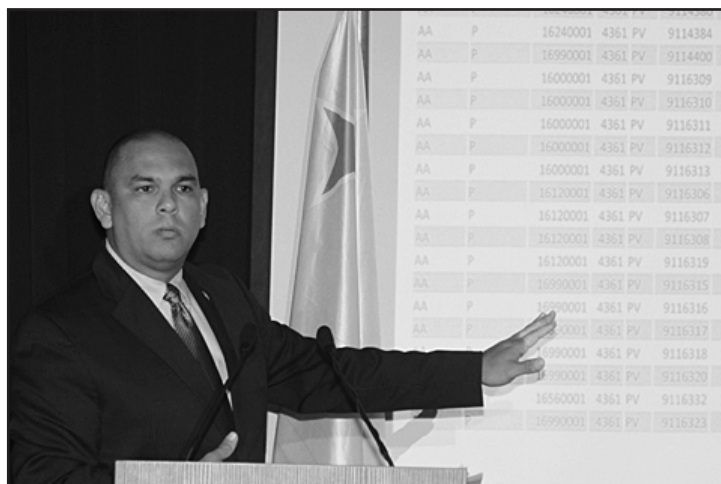
Aruba
Burger and Fries

Saving 22 Million Aruban florins affords Ministry of Tourism more breathing space

First National Competitiveness . . .

Continued from page 1



ORANJESTAD -- In a recent press conference, Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber, informed the press that since the privatization of the Aruba Tourism Association, they have been able to stand alone. With the increase of the funds for ATA through the room tax they are now virtually self supporting.

This matter was brought into focus as a result of comments regarding the extra 300 thousand Aruban florins his office is receiving for travel expenses, promotions and professional advice compared to what was received last year. The minister felt the need to explain the reason for the increase.

In light of the new management, the minister's office is now directly responsible for

the necessary contacts, the situation with airlift, the travels that were previously done by ATA and the airport. Now the Ministry of Tourism is directly charged with complying with these responsibilities and no longer ATA. There are also certain local promotional activities locally that was previously conducted by ATA, but which the government is now directly responsible for financially.

On the other hand, the minister explained how the budgetary situation has changed after making ATA a privatized body. The 2010 budget included the sum of 57 million Aruban florins for ATA, and for Cruise Tourism there was an allocation of 1.3 million Aruban florins.

Continued on page 4

Keynote speakers for the first summit included Simon Hudson, an expert in knowledge-based economic development working with the South Carolina Centers of Economic Excellence. He shared some of his discoveries while investigating various methods for improving the state's economy though knowledge based industries, the large portion of which is aimed at improving their tourism industry.

Co-keynote speaker was Dr. Rich Harrill, Director of the International Tourism Research Institute and a professor at the University of South Carolina, who will be joining the faculty of the University of Aruba as a visiting professor for the next school year. His topic, "Tourism, Innovation, Creativity & Growth: Advancing Aruba's New Economy" examined tourism as a "magnet for finance, real estate, technology, energy and health care."

Both speakers shared their present work and experience as it could be applied to Aruba and its unique situation, a nation that is #3 in the world in dependence on tourism as its economic pillar, and how to best expand and strengthen the island's position in a highly competitive market and achieve long-term sustainability.

Since the NCIC and the summit are about innovation, one of the highlights for many attending was the presentation by Carlos Maduro, owner of



Keynote speaker Simon Hudson

Office Systems. Like most vendors on Aruba, his business was based on imported goods, in particular being the exclusive agent for quality office furniture from Europe. He described the difficulties of such an enterprise, and the struggle to show a profit in an ever-increasing competitive market where imported goods are heavily taxed, as well as the freight charges to bring them to Aruba.

His innovative approach was to begin manufacturing high quality furniture on Aruba, a leap that most business people here are hesitant to pursue, because of the cost of importing the raw materials. His entertaining discourse on the "monkey wrenches" they frequently encountered, but with perseverance overcame, is an inspirational lesson to potential Aruban entrepreneurs seeking to start a unique commercial venture that will strengthen the island's economy.

Dr. Peterson closed the presentations with a talk "Innovation Intelligence-Towards a National Agenda for Innovation & Competitiveness," in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and Organization of American States, which was followed by a panel discussion facilitated by NCIC board member Edward Erasmus. Zulema Dabian of the NCIC closed the acted as MC for the summit.

The complex concepts covered during the 4 hour conference, and a more thorough exploration of the keynote speeches will be covered in future issues. More details and comments on the summit can be found on the NCIC Aruba Facebook page, along with upcoming findings and events.

A stated principle of the summit and the NCIC is motivating island entrepreneurs to devise creative means for stimulating Aruba's economy. Dr. Peterson brought forward a number of pertinent quotes—"When all think alike-no one is thinking," Walter Lippman, and from an anonymous source "The hardest part of holding on is letting go."—In other words, for Aruba to hold on to the prosperity to which the island is accustomed, they will very likely have to let go of dependence on former economic stimulus and dependencies, which are rapidly becoming outdated in the 21st century.

by Rosalie Klein

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Saving 22 Million Florins...

Continued from page 3

The government received 35.3 million from the room tax decree. When you delete these amounts it means that in 2010 the government had to contribute, from funds other than room tax, an amount of 23 million Aruban florins. At the moment of privatizing ATA, the government made a one-time contribution to ATA of 3 million Aruban florins for 2011. For employees who remained with the new ATA they required 2.2 million Aruban florins. This means that, for the budget now under consid-

eration, the government of Aruba has saved 18.2 million Aruban florins. Next year, the 3 million Aruban florins that ATA received this year will not be repeated in 2012, hence, in total there will be a saving of 22 million Aruban florins.

In view of this, Minister Oduber asserted that if we can save 22 million Aruban florins annually, this inevitably will give his ministry additional breathing space to continue the very necessary activities that are under his watch.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Aruba's telecommunication company, SETAR N.V. announces to the general public that all its teleshops will be open:

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Memorable vacation for Bryan and Maureen

Last Memorial Day, on the Sea-fari Yacht in Virginia Beach, Bryan and Maureen met for the first time. After an exchange of brief phone calls, Bryan planned a "tailgate" for two at a DC United game. The night consisted of talk and toasts over a bottle of chardonnay that lasted until 6 am. What they realized over those 12 hours is that although they came from different backgrounds and opposite coasts (Maureen is from California and Bryan is from Missouri and Virginia) they had a lot in common. So much so that they trusted their hearts and decided to get an apartment together in the Reston Town Center.

Bryan and Maureen have created a life together full of athletic endeavors and traveling adventures. Whether it is belaying each other at the rock climbing gym, or working to perfect their backhands in tennis, Bryan and Maureen are always positive, loving, and supportive of one another.

On one particular trip to Kansas City for the NCAA National Women's Volleyball Championship, Bryan decided to teach Maureen a little bit about the game of Craps. Much to both of their surprise, they walked out of the casino with pockets full of chips. While their luck on the table may have been short-lived, the luck they feel to have found with one another with undoubtedly last a lifetime.

A year from the time they met, Bryan and Maureen boarded a flight to Aruba for a two-week vacation. Unbeknownst to Maureen, Bryan had carefully hidden an engagement ring in his pocket. Early on in the trip, Bryan surprised Maureen by taking her to Eagle's Beach with a bottle of Riesling to watch the beautiful Aruban sunset. While walking the beach, a photographer introduced herself and offered to take a few photos of them. After 15 minutes of photos and sipping wine, Bryan dropped to a knee and asked Maureen to make him the happiest man alive by marrying him.

Later, Maureen found out the photographer, Diane Keijzer, was part of Bryan's plan to capture



the magical moment. After the proposal, the couple joined family and friends, Tom and Jan, Greg, Annette, and daughter Caroline at Madame Jeanette's for a delicious celebration dinner.

Photos by dianekeijzer@yahoo.com



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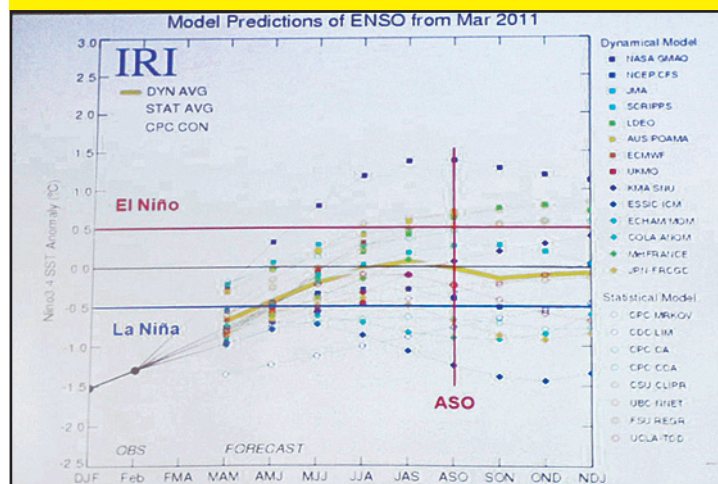
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June 1 marks the official start of Storm Season 2011

Continued from page 1



Effects of El Niño and La Niña on local weather.

2011 FORECAST's NCSU/CSU		
Forecast Parameter	14 April Forecast NSCU	6 April Forecast CSU
Named Storms (NS)	13-16	16
Named Storm Days (NSD)	--	80
Hurricanes (H)	7-9	9
Hurricane Days (HD)	--	35
Major Hurricanes (MH)	3-5	5
Major Hurricane Days (MHD)	--	10
Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE)	--	160
Net Tropical Cyclone Activity (NTC)	--	175

Between the two, CSU offered more figures, predicting 16 major storms, of which 9 would be hurricanes and 5 major hurricanes (level 3 or greater) with 80 named storm days (which could be depressions, as well.) These are only predications; they have been wrong in the past.

However, Prime Minister Eman and the task force again emphasize the importance of advance preparation, rather than braving the last minute rush and shortages at stores that invariably take place when storm warnings are announced. The government has issued a booklet in all the languages spoken on Aruba, explaining the best procedures to follow during a significant storm and how to prepare. It outlines creating a "Shelter Box," which is a safe room and how to stock it. It advises to begin preparation well in advance of peak hurricane season, which begins in August and extends through October, not to wait until storm warnings and the stores are

filled with panicked shoppers. Batteries, flashlights and lanterns, canned goods, bottled water, a First Aid Kit, a battery operated radio and other supplies that should be on hand are all listed and how to prepare and protect them and your home from serious water damage is all in the booklet.

Weather fronts forming in the Southeastern Atlantic anywhere from 9 to 15 degrees in latitude and moving directly west can impact Aruba; the public should follow reports and monitor any such southerly storms and be prepared. Storm season 2010 was exceptionally busy for the island; though Aruba did not experience any of the major named storms, the continual activity around the Caribbean resulted in heavy rains for several months causing quite some damage to property; homeowners are warned to examine their roofs for cracks another consequence of heavy rains.

by Rosalie Klein

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Storms in Caribbean could become Tropical

SANTO DOMINGO, The Dominican Republic -- The hurricane season opened in the Dominican Republic with torrential rains that flooded the capital, putting 10 provinces on alert. Public safety agencies were placed on alert yesterday, to deal with the risks posed by the downpours expected for at least five days nationwide, to ready the measures including mandatory evacuations and others that save.

An area of low pressure in the southwestern Caribbean Sea was showing some signs of eventual development. As of late yesterday, the large area of showers and storms remained disorganized and was getting ripped apart by strong upper-level winds. The strong winds are expected to lessen by early next week, which could allow



Inundated streets in Santo Domingo

for a center of circulation to form. Several computer models forecasted the system to become the first tropical system of the 2011 season.

If it does form into a tropical storm, it would get the first name on the list, which is Arlene.

The 2011 storms names are:

Arlene; Bret; Cindy; Don; Emily; Franklin; Gert; Harvey; Irene; Jose; Katia; Lee; Maria; Nate; Ophelia; Philippe; Rina; Sean; Tammy; Vince and Whitney.

Sci-Tech

Microsoft gives sneak preview of 'Windows 8'

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, California (AFP) — Microsoft gave a sneak preview of Windows 8, a next-generation operating system designed to work on both personal computers and touch-screen tablets.

Steven Sinofsky, president of Microsoft's Windows Division, demonstrated some of the features of the operating system code-named "Windows 8" at the D9 technology conference here hosted by All Things Digital.

"Laptops, slates, desktops -- all can run one operating system," Sinofsky said.

"Things that people see work... on an iPad, I think we can do that and then bring with it all of the benefits that you have with Windows," he said.

"We have an approach that is different but builds on the value of an operating system that sells 400 million or so units a year," he said.

"Windows 8" builds upon many of the features in Microsoft's latest mobile operating system for smartphones, Windows Phone 7, including



the use of touch "tiles" instead of icons to launch and navigate between applications.

In a blog post, Julie Larson-Green, corporate vice president of Windows Experience, said Windows 8 is a "reimagining of Windows, from the chip to the interface."

"A Windows 8-based PC is really a new kind of device, one that scales from touch-only small screens through to large screens, with or without a keyboard and mouse," Larson-Green said.

"Although the new user interface is designed and optimized for touch, it works equally well with a mouse and keyboard," she added.

Larson-Green said Mi-

crosoft would reveal more features of Windows 8, which uses Internet Explorer 10 as a Web browser, at its developers conference in Anaheim, California, opening on September 13.

Windows powers most of the world's personal computers but the Redmond, Washington-based software giant has been slow to enter a fast-growing tablet market dominated for the moment by Apple's iPad.

Many other tablet makers have opted to use Google's Android software and Forrester Research analyst Sarah Rotman Epps said a "well-formed Windows 8 will pose serious problems to Android."

The iPad was expected to remain the tablet market leader but "Microsoft will be a contender," she said. "What's more, they'll have a product that can compete across devices, and a foothold in the post-PC future."

Britain puts price on nature

LONDON (AFP) — Britain has put a price on the benefits of parks, lakes and wildlife for the first time in a government-commissioned study released on Thursday attempting to make the financial case for protecting nature.

It says the health benefits of simply living near to a green space are worth up to £300 (\$500, 340 euros) per person per year.

The assessment showed that until now, the focus has been solely on the market value of resources that can be exploited and sold, such as timber and food crops, while caring for the environment was seen as a cost.

This has meant some habitats and resources have been allowed to decline and degrade.

The National Ecosystem Assessment will be used to determine planning policy.

By highlighting the value of services such as views of urban parks and green spaces, it is hoped that developers will allow for more natural areas when planning housing

developments.

Environment minister Caroline Spelman said: "The UK National Ecosystem Assessment is a vital step forward in our ability to understand the true value of nature and how to sustain the benefits it gives us."

However, Stephen Tapper, president of the Planning Officers Society, warned that quantifying the value of nature was "a slippery slope".

"Local spaces have an intrinsic value, they are cherished by their local communities and it's very difficult to put any financial value to that," he told BBC radio.

The study puts a precise value on some aspects of nature, while others are harder to define.

Inland wetlands are considered to be worth £1.5 billion for their benefits to water quality while bees and other insects which pollinate fruit and crops have a value of £430 million a year to British agriculture.

The study shows that a third of the services that nature provides to Britain, from

fish stocks to the pollination of plants on farmland, are being damaged.

Professor Bob Watson, chief scientist at the environment ministry and co-chairman of the project, said: "Roughly 30 percent of all ecosystem services are still declining or degrading. We are going in the right direction but there's still a long way to go."

He said one of the big challenges was to balance the production of food and resources with sustaining the other 'services' nature provides.

Professor Ian Bateman, of the University of East Anglia and one of the study's lead authors, said the point of putting economic values on environmental goods and services was "to ensure their incorporation on equal footing with the market-priced goods which currently dominate decision-making."

"Without such representation we will get a persistence of the situation where we have these services being used as if they were free and had no value."

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Twitter launching photo-sharing service



RANCHOS PALOS VERDES, California (AFP) — Twitter said Wednesday that it is adding a photo-sharing

option for its users, a move that could deal a blow to existing services such as Twitpic and yfrog.

Twitter chief executive Dick Costolo also announced at the All Things Digital technology conference here that the San Francisco-based service was upgrading its search function.

Twitter will begin allowing users to upload pictures and attach them to "tweets" directly from Twitter.com, Costolo said.

Twitter said that its official mobile applications will also provide a photo-sharing feature and the service will be available in the next several weeks.

As for search, Twitter said it will begin showing related photos and videos in search results.

Global online traffic will quadruple by 2015 as the number of gadgets linked to the Internet climbs to 15 billion, according to a forecast by networking colossus Cisco. Cisco's fifth annual Visual Networking Index Forecast, predicted that nearly three billion people, more than 40 percent of the expected world population, will be using the Internet by the year 2015. Personal computers generated 97 percent of consumer Internet traffic last year, but the share will drop to 87 percent in the next four years as more people turn to smartphones, tablets, and Web-enabled televisions, Cisco said. (AFP)

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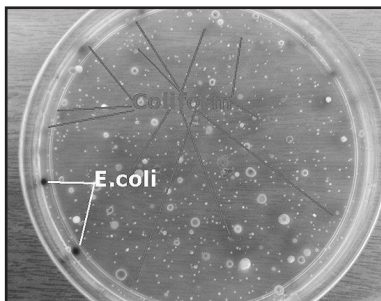
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Health & Living

E. coli outbreak: WHO says bacterium is a new strain



--German doctors confirm World Health Organisation's report that there has never before been an outbreak of this strain of *E. coli*. A new and more virulent strain of the *E. coli* bacterium caused the outbreak that has killed 17 people and left more than 1,500 ill across Europe, the World Health Organisation has announced.

Hilde Kruse, a food safety expert at the WHO, told the Associated Press it was "a unique strain that has never been isolated from patients before ... [its characteristics] make it more virulent and toxin-producing".

According to the Health Protection Agency three British nationals have been in-

fectured as well as four Germans in the UK. All are believed to have caught it in Germany. Three are believed to have developed haemolytic uraemic syndrome, a rare and severe kidney complication that destroys red blood cells and can affect the central nervous system.

The HPA has said it is working with the Food Standards Agency and there is no evidence of suspect produce being distributed in the UK.

As the number of cases continues to rise, Russia has extended its ban on imports of raw vegetables from the European Union -- a move condemned by Brussels as "disproportionate" -- and Spain is threatening legal action over the initial attempt by Germany to blame the outbreak on imported Spanish organic cucumbers.

Russia initially banned imports of raw vegetables from Germany and Spain but is extending the ban to all EU countries.

Spain is seeking compensa-

tion from Germany of its farmers, claiming lost sales are costing €200m a week and could put 70,000 people out of work.

In Germany a health official admitted the precise source of the disease may never be traced. Reinhard Burger, head of the Robert Koch Institute, told the BBC: "I think the number of cases will come down, but how long it takes I'm not sure."

At the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Denis Coulombier, head of surveillance and response, said there was a strong link between the disease and consuming fresh vegetables.

Professor Hugh Pennington, a microbiologist from the University of Aberdeen, told the BBC that the outbreak was unusual because it didn't seem to be affecting young children. "Children under five have had a very hard time with this kind of bug in the past. They seem to be escaping it -- maybe just due to the nature of the food that's causing the problem."

Red Cross reopens Haiti cholera centre

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) -- The Red Cross has reopened a cholera treatment centre near Port-au-Prince to fight a resurgence of a disease that killed thousands last year, said a statement on Thursday.

According to Haitian health authorities, at least 10 people died in recent days of a new cholera spike in areas near the Haitian capital.

About 1,000 cholera cases were admitted to the Carrefour hospital, south of the capital, they said.

The Red Cross "centre was originally established last year at the height of the epidemic and we have further stocks of

medical equipment... ready to be released," said Gerhard Tauscher, cholera operation coordinator for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in a statement.

Reports of cholera in Haiti's urban areas had been trailing off since the beginning of the year, even if isolated cases were reported in rural areas.

In the late 2010 epidemic, 5,332 people were killed and 310,000 were diagnosed with cholera. At the height of the outbreak dozens of deaths were reported daily.

Britain reports seven *E. coli* cases

LONDON, England (AFP) -- Seven people in Britain have been infected with the *E. coli* bacteria which has killed 17 people in Europe, with all cases linked to Germany, health authorities said Thursday.

Three of those infected were British nationals who had recently travelled to Germany and four were German nationals, the Health Protection Agency said in a statement. Of those cases three had full-blown haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) -- a disease that can cause serious

liver damage -- and the other four suffered bloody diarrhoea, it said.

Most of the deaths from the outbreak have been in Germany, where health authorities are desperately searching for the cause after Spanish cucumbers were wrongly blamed at first.

Dilys Morgan, a disease specialist at the Health Protection Agency, said anyone returning from Germany with illness including bloody diarrhoea should seek urgent medical attention and mention their recent travel history.

Health Tip: Is It Time to Stop Driving?



-- As cognitive function, coordination, eyesight and other

skills decline in old age, it may be time for an elderly person to quit driving.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration mentions these warning signs that seniors may no longer be able to drive safely:

*Becoming lost when taking a familiar route.

*Appearance of new scratches and dents on the car.

*Getting ticketed for a driving

violation.

*Getting into a car accident, or having a near-miss.

*Receiving a recommendation from a doctor to stop or reduce driving, having health problems that impact driving, or taking medications that affect driving.

*Finding that road signs and road markings are suddenly overwhelming.

*Driving too fast or too slowly for no apparent reason.

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Aruba Hospitality & Security Foundation marks 10th anniversary with opening of Oranjestad facility



Jesus Cardoso, Jan van Ness, Roland Peterson and Minister Dowers



Police Commissioners Trudy Hassel and Dolphi Richardson receive keys

It was a landmark celebration on Wednesday, June 1 for the AH & SF. This non - profit island foundation which organizes and finances the Aruba Visibility Team, a public/private partnership of police and trained security personnel to patrol the streets, favorite tourist spots and shoreline, was founded 10 years ago to the day by Roland Peterson and Jan van Ness, GM of Playa Linda Beach Resort.

The event was marked with a double celebration, as the AH & SF was opening their first Oranjestad Headquarters in the Renaissance Marketplace, right next to Captain Cook's, facing the Beach Suites. Departing Chairman of the Board, Occidental Grand GM Jesus Cardoso, expressed the foundations heartfelt gratitude to Meta Corp and CEO Eduardo de Veer for donating the space for the Oranjestad facility.

During his farewell address, Jesus commended those whose determination over the years, including Roland and Jan, have made the AH & SF a successful project; mentioned were Radisson GM and former AH & SF

Board Chairman Rob Smith, Former Chief Commissioner of Police Ronnie Bernadina, Ross Brezover, Amsterdam Manor GM Jurgen van Schaijk, La Cabana GM Joe Najar and Renaissance GM Paul Gielen, among many others.

Jesus reminded the gathering of the AH & SF's many successes aside from the Visibility Team, which include bi-annual security conference that attract law officials from around the region, Security Directors conferences, the training of VT personnel and the security network for a speedy response the foundation created and supports, and a new Lifeguard Training and Placement program for Aruba's beaches, which will go into very soon.

"10 years of efforts and



Team receives 4 renewable energy vehicles for patrolling

projects to have a secure Aruba that can be showcased to the world as a safe place to live, work and visit" brought Mr. Cardoso to his real message "Aruba will be safe only if everyone contributes to this in one way or another. Security is not just the responsibility of the Police and other government forces, but the task of every citizen, habitant and visitor."

Continued on page 9



Opening hours: Monday - Thursday: 5:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Friday - Saturday: 5:30 p.m. - 2 a.m.
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(Across from the Radisson Resort)

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INSALATE: Capresa stile Italiano (Mozzarella, Tomato, Basil, Rucola)
 Insalata Di Mare (Mixed Seafood)

ANTIPASTI: Bruschetta al Pomodoro
 Carpaccio Zucchini: (Zucchini, Capers, Red Onions, Lemon Juice, Mint, Basil)

PASTA: Linguini Frutti Di Mare (Cherry Tomatoes, Mixed Seafood, Rucola)
 Ravioli Della Regina (Spinach, Ricotta Cheese, White Sauce)



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Aruba Hospitality & Security Foundation ...

Continued from page 8



Oranjestad Team at their new headquarters

"The task of the foundation is to be the channel and promoter of all these efforts, advise the government and educated visitors to keep this beautiful and peaceful island still one of the safest tourist destinations in the Caribbean," continued Mr. Cardoso. Jan van Ness reiterated this cannot be accomplished without constant financial support from resorts, businesses and a population which benefits from tourism, directly or indirectly, as the foundation is always in need of a steady stream of funds.

Roland Peterson explained that the AH & SF was sug-

gested by then Police Inspector Jan van der Straten as the way to support police efforts to secure the tourism product, without directly donating money to the police, which they legally cannot accept. The foundation pays the private personnel and obtains necessary equipment for maintaining patrols which work under an official from the police department; the 10th anniversary witnessed the award of keys to a new pickup and 4 mountain bikes for the Oranjestad Visibility Team. Chief Commissioner of Police Dolphi Richardson accepted the keys from Minister of Justice Arthur Dowers, and in turn handed them over to Deputy Police Commissioner Trudy Hassel, official police liaison to the Visibility Team.

Minister Dowers also presented a plaque to AH & SF founders Roland and Jan for the achievements of the past year; they acknowledged the efforts of Board Secretary Dario Soemers for his tireless efforts in seeing these many projects and seminars were successful.

by Rosalie Klein

Eric and Jessica renew vows on Bucuti's "Dream Beach of the World"

The hopelessly romantic Eric Yokeley planned a secret beach blessing for his beautiful wife Jessica as a surprise for their 12th wedding anniversary. Eric said, "knowing my wife, I spilled the beans, as I didn't want Jess to stress about what to wear once we were down there...". Despite the secret was out, the couple had their dream beach ceremony at the Bucuti, beautifully officiated by Reverend Diane Keijzer.

Jessica and Eric currently live in Morrisville, North Carolina and have 2 wonderful children, Jackson who is 3 years old and Ella who is one.

Jess and Eric met in college one evening in 1977, at a small club on Halloween, when Eric spotted Jess. They didn't talk that night or the next few times they happened to be at the same club enjoying the local band playing there. Eric decided to make her a mix tape of the music that they both obviously liked, so that when he would finally get up the nerve to talk to her he would give it to her. Finally in January of 1998 he got the chance, but, the music was so loud that night in the club she thought at first he was trying to sell her tape. They laughed and started talking, and have been inseparable ever since. They got engaged in 1999 and married the same year, and Jess said "have lived happily ever after since".

"We chose Aruba and the Bucuti because the beach looked to be perfect. Bucuti sounded like it had exactly what we needed - peace, quiet and relaxation. We loved that the renewal was low stress and laid back. Eric worked with Diane to help personalize the ceremony for us, and it was perfect, as if she knew us for years. It was about the two of us and our love for each other."

Eric and Jessica said they can't wait to go back to Bucuti and stay again in one of their luxurious Junior Suites in the Tara Building right on the beach, and want to say how wonderful and people friendly the management and staff are. They made it feel like a "home away from home".

Photos by Victor Winklaar



COMICS

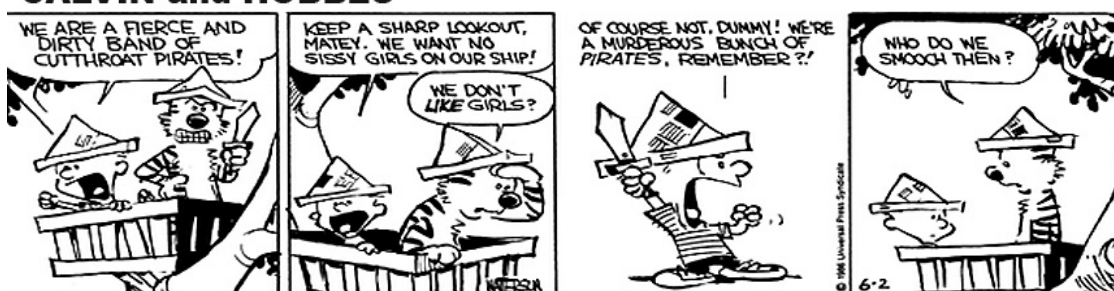
PICKLES



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ACROSS

1. Measure of work
4. Kibbles consumer
7. Noah's son
11. Toothpaste brand
12. "___ Ordinary Man" (2 wds.)
14. Stead
15. Book balancer (abbr.)
16. Stamped, as an ID
18. Actress Daryl
20. Happened

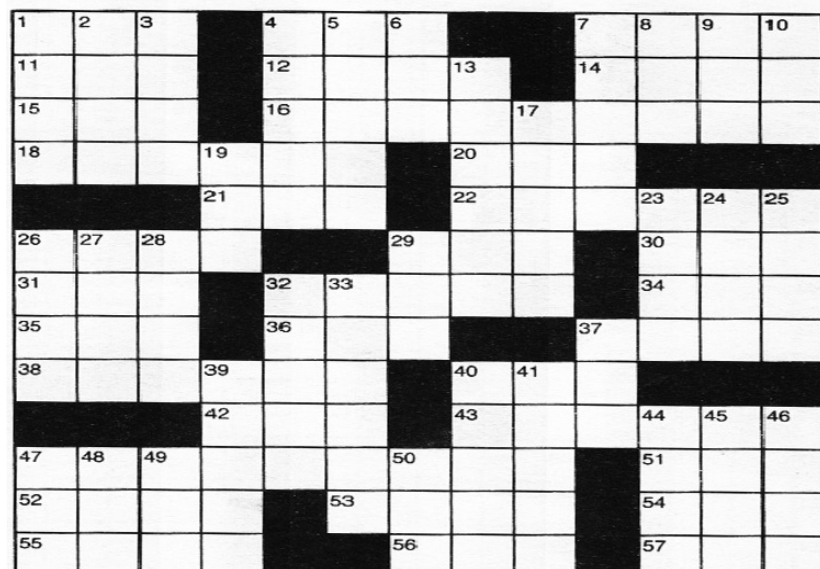
21. "The Lady ___ Tramp" (2 wds.)
22. Got the better of
26. Peruse
29. Common tree
30. Groom's response (2 wds.)
31. Candidate Landon
32. Bowling areas
34. June honoree
35. Teacher's group (abbr.)
36. Woolly mama
37. Office reminder
38. Native of Seoul
40. Vague schedule info (abbr.)

42. "___ Lay Dying" (2 wds.)
43. Copland and Spelling
47. Durability
51. Internet service (abbr.)
52. Contribute to the poker pot
53. Fence swinger
54. Calendar abbr.
55. Gaze
56. Mogul Turner
57. Used a stool

DOWN

1. To ___ his own
2. TV host Kelly
3. FBI agent (hyph.)

4. Opera stars
5. Nebraska metropolis
6. Milk amount (abbr.)
7. Thin boards
8. Big success
9. Width of Shaq's shoes
10. Wet dirt
13. Marked by quick movement
17. Supposes
19. Author Anaïs
23. Ocean movement
24. Dutch cheese
25. Flightless bird
26. Drifted to the bottom
27. Egyptian queen, informally
28. Remote
29. Compass dir.
32. Dog's strap
33. Porch protector
37. Spoil
39. Zealous
40. Sample food
41. Stationed
44. Bumpkins
45. "SNL" alum Dunn
46. Long cut
47. Strike lightly
48. Washington bill
49. Southwestern Indian
50. Sup



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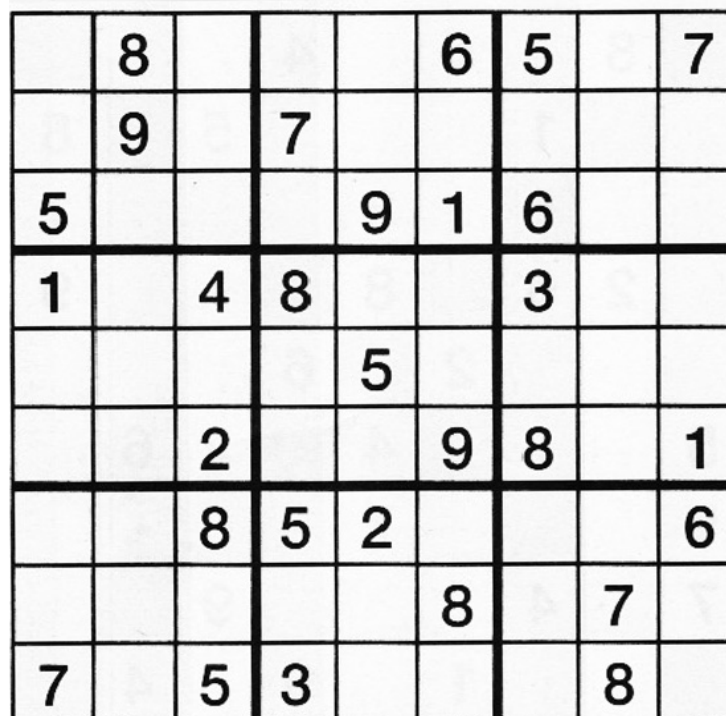
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2	8	6	4	9	8	9	1	7
9	7	4	8	1	6	8	2	9
9	8	1	2	7	9	8	4	6
1	9	8	6	4	9	2	7	8
4	2	8	9	1	6	9	8	
6	9	8	2	7	8	4	9	1
8	4	9	1	6	2	7	8	9
8	1	2	9	8	7	9	6	4
7	6	9	9	8	4	1	8	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Increase Profits by Getting Rid of Bad Customers



We have all heard the saying, "The Customer is Always Right." Well, I disagree with that statement. Customers are not always right.

Great Customers are the ones who contribute to the bottom line of your company. A great percentage of your customers occupy a great part of your time, but little to your bottom line. You must determine who they are and then get rid of them. If you don't, it will harm you in the long run.

How and what do you do about those customers who seem like more trouble than they are worth?

Each business has customers who know what they want, value your input, and pay their bills on time. The real question is, "Can all customers be educated to become a productive part of your company?"

The first thing you should do is to identify your most difficult customers. You know who they are. They constantly complain, are slow to pay, and always want more

than you both initially agreed to.

Many businesses carry unprofitable customers without knowing that they are carrying them. Here's a suggestion...

Every year or so, complete a customer evaluation to decide which ones you should convince to cease doing business with you, so that you can continue to grow. There are companies who can help you with this, where they will profile your customers and



help you determine those you should cease doing business with you.

Once you have determined who those customers are, you could try to convert them into profitable ones by using the following:

1. Change your relationship with them from a position of weakness to one that is powerful.

2. Increase your prices. If you lose an unprofitable one this way, it saves you the

pain of doing it yourself.

3. Lastly, give your customer a choice of options to see if you can move them into a better relationship that results in a profit for you. For example: Instead of saying, "Would you like this item, yes or no?" ask: "Would you like option one, two, three or four."

Don't be afraid to determine which customers are not profitable and more trouble than they are worth. Once you have done this, then cut them loose.

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IMF needs leadership from developing world: Carstens

BRASILIA, Brazil (AFP) – "We are breaking a paradigm," declared Mexico's Agustín Carstens, who says being named the next IMF chief would be a major victory not just for Latin America, but for the entire developing world.

The Mexican central banker said in an interview with Agence France-Presse that his cause "is something that emerging countries have advocated and which we have to continue to work for."

Carstens, 52, in pressing his case for the top IMF job, decries what he called a lack of European "credibility" in seeking one of their own to replace Frenchman, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, at the head of the world finance body.

Under a tacit agreement, the leadership of the International Monetary Fund has been accorded to a European since its founding in 1945, while an American has occupied the top job at the World Bank.

"It is clear that for the mo-



ment, they (European nations) have not managed to get to a situation where they have full credibility," Carstens told AFP during a visit to Brasilia.

After all, he says, the countries of Europe since the IMF's founding have never hesitated in creating financial programs and solutions for the countries of Latin America and elsewhere in the third world.

French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde is considered the frontrunner, backed by many European nations.

The IMF is due to publish a full list of candidates by June 17. The final selection is expected to be announced by June 30.

Oil slides under \$99 on surprise bounce in US crude reserves

LONDON, England (AFP) – World oil prices sank further on Thursday, erasing earlier gains, as traders digested news of a surprise jump in crude inventories in top consuming nation the United States.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in July, fell \$1.41 to \$98.88 per barrel.

Brent North Sea crude for July shed 35 cents to \$114.18 a barrel in afternoon deals.

The US Department of Energy (DoE) revealed Thursday that American crude reserves soared by 2.9 million barrels in the week ending May 27, indicating weaker energy demand.

That surprised the market because expectations had been for a drop of 1.2 million barrels, according to analysts polled by Dow Jones Newswires.

Separately, industry group the American Petroleum Institute also announced that US crude reserves has swelled by 3.5 million barrels last week.

Crude futures had fallen sharply on Wednesday, weighed down by weak economic data that has sparked serious concern about the energy demand outlook.

Markets were rattled by grim jobs and manufacturing figures that revealed deep weaknesses in the US economy.

Payrolls firm ADP reported the US private sector added 38,000 jobs in May, well below the consensus estimate for 170,000. The April figure was revised upward to 177,000.

Oil traders were meanwhile looking ahead to the June 8 output meeting of the Organi-

sation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna.

Prices have been weighed down by speculation that the cartel could decide to lift output next week to compensate for Libyan oil production, which has been ravaged by unrest.

WEDNESDAY'S Crossword Answer

L	P	G	A	R	A	H	A	P	R
A	R	I	D	D	O	T	E	B	A
Y	O	G	I	I	D	O	S	B	L
S	P	I	D	E	R	S	T	E	R
A	S	K	V	O	L				
G	H	O	S	T	C	E	N	S	O
A	B	S	B	A	T	D	Y	E	
B	O	S	S	I	E	R	A	L	D
E	D	D	I	E	B	E	C	O	M
T	A	O	A	C	I	D	T	A	R
C	N	N	G	U	N	S	E	D	I
H	S	T	E	D	S	D	E	E	D

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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters,

caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.





Breakfast
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

<p>EGG DISHES *2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese *Scrambled with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom *Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom All egg dishes are served with a choice of : white or whole wheat baguette or sliced toasted bread.</p> <p>*PASTECHI HORNA *CRÊPES *SWEET CRÊPES *BAGEL with cream cheese, smoked salmon, boiled egg</p>	<p>LOCAL BREAKFAST *Pan grandi (di rama) or baguette *KERRIE-KERRIE (FISH) *CONCH *FISH EGG *SHRIMPS *FISH FILLET *FISH CAKE *CHICKEN SOUP</p> <p>*FRUIT SALAD & YOGHURT * HOT BEVERAGES * COLD BEVERAGES</p>
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Thames flotilla will mark UK Queen's jubilee

LONDON, England — Queen Elizabeth's 60 years on the British throne will be celebrated next year with four days of events including a flotilla on the River Thames and a concert at Buckingham Palace, royal officials said on Thursday.

The 85-year-old, who last month became the second-longest reigning British monarch in more than 1,000 years, acceded to the throne on the death of her father George VI on February 6, 1952.

She will overtake Queen Victoria, who ruled for much of the 19th century, to become the longest reigning monarch in September 2015.

Festivities to mark the diamond jubilee will begin on Saturday, June 2 when the monarch will attend the Epsom Derby horse race.

The following day will see the "Big Jubilee Lunch" when people will be encouraged to get together with their neighbors and friends to share a meal, possibly at street parties or picnics.

On the same day, up to 1,000 boats will also assemble on the Thames in London for the biggest flotilla seen in modern times with the queen at the head in the royal barge.

Events will continue on



Monday and Tuesday which have both been designated as public holidays.

A BBC concert will be staged at Buckingham Palace on June 4, with tickets available through a public ballot, and a network of 2,012 beacons will later be lit across the United Kingdom.

On June 5, there will be a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral with a carriage procession headed by the queen.

Buckingham Palace said they expected other events to take place across Britain and the Commonwealth over the weekend.



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-Yolanda Cellucci, Boston, Mass

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-Leopold family, New York

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SHOWTIME: 9PM NIGHTLY

STARRING: Adam Steinfeld

WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

THEATER OPENS: 8:30PM

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COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / **LOCALS:** Afl. 40

TICKETS: at the door, Box office

Westin Lobby, up until **9PM** showtime
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MONACO, Monaco : Picture taken on June 1, 2011, of newly released Royal wedding souvenirs displaying Prince Albert II of Monaco and his South African swimming champion fiancée Charlene Wittstock monogram, edited to celebrate their Royal Wedding. Prince Albert and Charlene Wittstock will celebrate their wedding over two days on July 2 and 3.

AFP PHOTO

Russian police offer smokers lollipops to drop the habit



Russian police offer smokers lollipops in to smokers in Moscow, in a bid to encourage them to kick the habit.
AFP/Photo

MOSCOW (AFP) – Russian police this week coaxed hardened smokers to kick the habit by offering lollipops in exchange for cigarettes at Moscow rail stations to mark World No Tobacco Day.

"The Russian police support a healthy lifestyle," a spokeswoman for Moscow transport police, Yelena Bobylkova, said as the campaign began at Yaroslavl mainline station.

Russia has one of the highest smoking rates among de-

veloped nations, with the growing numbers of women smoking raising particular concern.

Teams of three police -- one carrying a bucket of water to snuff out cigarettes, another with a box of lollipops and a third carrying leaflets about the dangers of smoking -- patrolled the station in search of smokers.

The stunt was to reinforce a smoking ban in suburban commuter trains, Bobylkova said.

Surprised by policemen

brandishing lollipops in front of television cameras, most smokers meekly threw their cigarettes into the buckets of water and studied the anti-smoking pamphlets.

Some smokers murmured they would try, but others were less convinced.

"I won't give up smoking until they stop selling cigarettes," said Ivan Mityaikin, 30.

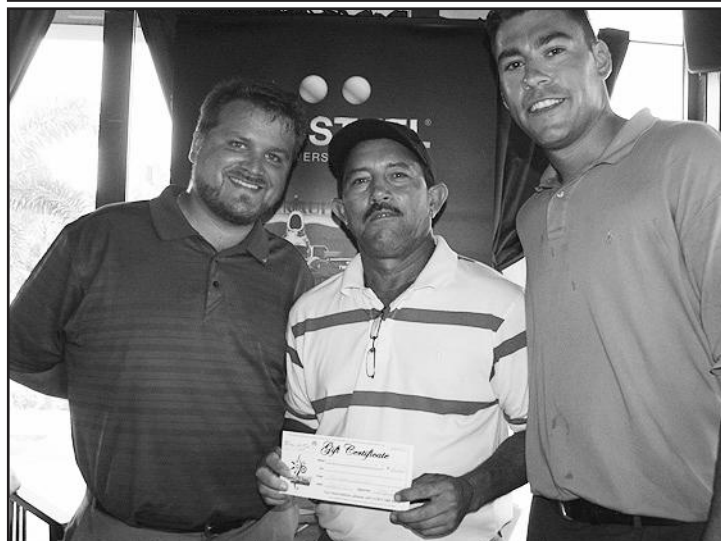
Pensioner Yury Nosakov, 65, praised the campaign.

"They should organise this more often. I gave up smoking 30 years ago. Neither my children nor my grandchildren smoke. I am proud of that," he told AFP.

The Russian government recently introduced large warnings of impotency and death on cigarette packs, but the packs cost just around 40 rubles (one euro) each and smoking is allowed in almost all restaurants and bars.

Six out of 10 Russian men smoke as do 21.7 percent of women, a figure that is constantly growing, Russian health services say.

Tierra del Sol Heritage Cup by BOOLCHAND'S concludes the first round



Tierra del Sol – After the first Leg of five events, says Adam Williamson, Head Professional, Tierra del Sol Resort Spa & Country Club, Aruba, the Heritage Cup started out with a huge clump of ties for second place with a score of 37 stableford points, and one little man sitting at the top with 38. Jan Roeloffsvalk takes the first event awarding him 500 cup points and the lead. The Champion of the 2009 Heritage Cup Stalin Tullod, is back in the swing of things and is among the 4 tied for 2nd place. Also last year's defending champion, Maurice DeLisle who won 3 of the 5 event in 2010 including the final, is next in line at 6th place, just two shots off the mark for yet another victory. "I think it is fair to say that we are going to be seeing good golf the next few weeks," concluded Williamson.

Aruba's championship golf-course, Tierra Del Sol, hosted the first of five Heritage Cup by Boolchand's events, this past Saturday. The prizes for the winners of the five rounds will be sponsored by Boolchand's in the form of oversize, stylish TW Steel watches. The first event started at 10:30 am with a spot of breakfast to go, at Tierra del Sol Golf Course, and after playing 18 holes, golfers met at Buster's Garage at the South Beach centre for the award ceremony, snacks and the Champions League Final BARCELONA vs. MANCHESTER UNITED.

Williamson, conducted the award ceremony in which Jan Roeloffsvalk, won a TW Steel watch as the winner of the day, with Stalin Tullod, Michael v/d Hofstede, Jose Rodriguez and Shine Helmen, leading in the Stableford point standing.

Additional winners for the day, nearest to hole #3, Hunt Riley, nearest to hole #7 & 13 Axl Ismail, nearest to hole #15, Jose Rodriguez and nearest to hole #17 Stallin Tullod winning gift certificates by Ventanas del Mar, Da Vinci, Amadeus, Body & Soul Spa and Buster's Garage.

On the left; some of the winners receiving their award.



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French Open Final : Li to battle Schiavone



China's Li Na

PARIS, France (AFP) – China's Li Na will take on defending champion Francesca Schiavone of Italy in the French Open final after both scored straight sets victories on Thursday.

Li, bidding to become the first Chinese player to win a Grand Slam singles title at the age of 29, defeated double-fault prone Maria Sharapova 6-4, 7-5 in the first of the semi-finals.

The 30-year-old Schiavone then comfortably saw off French hope Marion Bartoli with a 6-3, 6-3 lesson in clay-court tennis.

The two have met four times previously with the series shared at 2-2. Schiavone though won their last encounter, in straight sets, in the third round at Roland Garros last year.

Li's win made it back-to-back Grand Slam finals for

her and she gets another crack at becoming the first player from China to win a major title after losing to Kim Clijsters at the Australian Open at the start of the year.

For Sharapova it was a bitter pill to swallow as she had hoped to become just the 10th woman in the history of the sport to win all four Grand Slam titles, having won one apiece at Wimbledon and the Australian and US Opens.

But 10 double faults, five in each set, proved to be her undoing on a day when gusty winds sent the red dirt flying on the Philippe Chatrier centre court.

The 24-year-old Russian looked briefly likely to take the tie into a deciding set as she went a break up in the second, but once again her serving proved unreliable and it was fitting that she double-faulted on match point.

Li, who is aware she is making big headlines back home in China as she closes in on what would be an historic win, said that she hoped to draw on her experiences in Melbourne when she became the first Chinese player to play in a Grand Slam final.

Schiavone, an upset winner here last year when she defeated Samantha Stosur of Australia in the final, once again used her tactical awareness and variety of shots to defuse the hitting power of a bigger and stronger opponent.



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Mexicans favored in Gold Cup



Mexico's Javier Hernandez ARLINGTON, Texas (AFP) – A Mexican side sparked by Manchester United's Javier Hernandez and Tottenham's Giovani dos Santos will be favored to defend the Gold Cup crown when the biennial football tournament opens Sunday.

In the tournament's 20-year history, Mexico has taken five titles with the host United States winning three times, Canada capturing the crown in 2000 and Honduras winning the inaugural crown over the US team on penalty kicks in 1991.

Mexico routed the Americans 5-0 in the 2009 final, spoiling the US bid for a third consecutive North American (CONCACAF) title.

The border rivals have met in the final of the 12-nation event four times and another such showdown could come in the June 25 final at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

Monterrey's Aldo de Nigris will join Dos Santos and Hernandez in providing front-line firepower for Mexico, which dispatched New Zealand 3-0 in a tuneup match on Wednesday.

One year after the South African World Cup, the event

is a stage for young talent playing with the 2014 Brazil World Cup in mind and veterans trying to show they still have what it takes to compete at a top level.

"We certainly look at this Gold Cup as being such an important tournament for the United States and something that we really put a lot of time and effort into," US coach Bob Bradley said.

The Mexicans were drawn into Group A along with Costa Rica and Cuba, who meet in the tournament's opening match on Sunday, and El Salvador, Mexico's opponent in Sunday's second match at Cowboys Stadium in suburban Dallas.

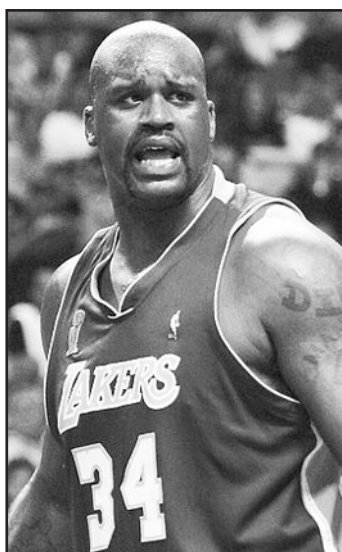
The Americans will be in Group C with Canada, Panama and Guadeloupe while Group B features Honduras, Jamaica, Grenada and Guatemala.

Jamaica will face Grenada and Honduras takes on Guatemala on Monday in Los Angeles in Group B openers while Panama will meet Guadeloupe and Canada will face the United States in Group C openers on Tuesday at Detroit.



Jason Bay #44 of the New York Mets is hit with a seventh inning pitch against the Pittsburgh Pirates yesterday at Citi Field in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. The Mets defeated the Pirates 9-8. (AFP)

Legendary big man Shaq calls it quits



BOSTON (AFP) – Shaquille O'Neal, one of the most dominating big men in NBA history in his prime, announced his retirement this week after a 19-year career that saw him win four NBA titles.

"Shaq" was at his finest from 2000 through 2002 when he combined with star guard Kobe Bryant to guide the Los Angeles Lakers to three NBA crowns, and he added another in 2006 with Miami, two years after being traded to the Heat.

"I'm retiring," O'Neal posted on his Twitter microblogging website, which also included a video link in which he thanked his followers on the social media site.

O'Neal, 39, was nagged by injuries in the later seasons of his career, including failed

stints to help bring titles to Phoenix, Cleveland and this season in Boston.

A nagging right Achilles tendon injury proved more than "Shaq" could overcome and he told an ESPN reporter who is working on a biography of him that he considered making a comeback but did not want to disappoint Celtics fans.

"I'm letting everybody know now so ... the organization can try to get younger talent. I would love to come back, but they say once the Achilles is damaged it's never the same. I don't want to take that chance."

LeBron James, the current Miami star who played alongside O'Neal in Cleveland, appreciated "Shaq" on and off the court.

"What a career for Shaq Diesel!!" James posted on his Twitter site. "The most dominating force to ever play the game. Great person to be around as well. Comedy all the time!!"

Heat president Pat Riley, who coached O'Neal to an

Khan to face Judah next month in Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AFP) – Britain's Amir Khan will face US southpaw Zab Judah in a light-welterweight world title unification fight on July 23 at Las Vegas, promoters announced Thursday.

Khan, 25-1 with 17 knockouts, will risk his World Boxing Association version of the division throne against Judah, who is 41-6 with 28 knockouts and owns the International Boxing Federation title.

At 33, Judah is nine years older than Khan.

Khan, who has won seven fights in a row since suffering his only career loss to Colombian Breidis Prescott in 2008, will make the fifth defense of a crown he won by unanimous decision over Ukraine's Andriy Kotelnik in 2009.

NBA title in Miami, saw the personable center's goodbye as a bittersweet moment.

"I'm a little bit sad," Riley said. "Great, great player. The league is going to miss Shaq. I'm sure Shaq will do something big and beyond."

O'Neal, a 15-time NBA All-Star, ranks fifth on the all-time NBA scoring list with 28,596 points and his three NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Awards trail only Michael Jordan on the all-time list.

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
NY YANKEES	31	23	.574	--
BOSTON	30	26	.536	2.0
TAMPA	29	26	.527	2.5
TORONTO	28	28	.500	4.0
BALTIMORE	25	29	.463	6.0

Central

CLEVELAND	33	20	.623	--
DETROIT	29	26	.527	5.0
CHICAGO	27	31	.466	8.5
KANSAS	25	30	.455	9.0
MINNESOTA	17	37	.315	16.5

West

TEXAS	30	26	.536	--
SEATTLE	28	27	.509	1.5
LA ANGELES	29	29	.500	2.0
OAKLAND	27	30	.474	3.5

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
PHILADELPHIA	34	22	.607	--
FLORIDA	31	23	.574	2.0
ATLANTA	31	26	.544	3.5
NY METS	25	30	.455	8.5
WASHINGTON	24	31	.436	9.5

Central

ST. LOUIS	33	24	.579	--
MILWAUKEE	30	26	.536	2.5
CINCINNATI	29	28	.509	4.0
PITTSBURG	26	28	.481	5.5
CHICAGO	23	31	.426	8.5
HOUSTON	22	34	.393	10.5

West

ARIZONA	31	25	.554	--
SAN FRANCISCO	30	25	.545	0.5
COLORADO	26	29	.473	4.5
LA DODGERS	26	31	.456	5.5
SAN DIEGO	24	32	.429	7.0

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Grondona upbraids Batista over Nigeria drubbing

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentine Football Association (AFA) president Julio Grondona has accused coach Sergio Batista of jeopardising the reputation of the national side, following the 4-1 friendly loss to Nigeria.

"You can't mess around like that with the prestige of the national side," Grondona told Argentine radio station Radio Mitre.

Grondona expressed his

discontent with Batista, who had selected a squad shorn of stars and largely composed of inexperienced players for the trip to west Africa.

For his part, Batista had claimed that "these outings are useful, whatever the result, because it allows you to see the players of the future".

Two-time world champions Argentina, face Poland in another friendly in Warsaw on Sunday.

Sports brief...

Japan withdraw from Copa America

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan said this week it had scrapped plans to play in the prestigious Copa America football tournament after initially deciding to compete in the wake of the devastating March 11 quake and tsunami. Japan and Mexico were invited as teams from outside South America to play in the regional tournament in July, where the Japanese had been drawn in Group A with the hosts, Bolivia and Colombia. The South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) confirmed that Costa Rica have been invited to replace Japan in the tournament.

Copa America - July 1 - 24

Messi, Tevez, head Argentina's Copa squad



Messi

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Carlos Tevez of Manchester City spearhead Argentina's 26-man squad announced this week for next month's Copa America.

Tevez figures in the list despite complaining that he had been left out of his country's 4-2 friendly win against Paraguay last weekend.

Only four of coach Sergio Batista's squad are based in Argentina, which is hosting the July 1-24 competition.

Messi, fresh from guiding

Barcelona to Champions League glory, has his sights firmly set on winning the event.

"I was lucky enough to win everything with Barcelona and on an individual level, and now my goal is to play in and win the Copa America with Argentina."

And he will be looking to turn around Argentina's terrible run in the Copa America, a tournament they have not won since 1993 in Ecuador.

ARGENTINA SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Sergio Romero (AZ Alkmaar/NED), Juan Pablo Carrizo (River Plate), Mariano Andujar (Catania/ITA)

Defenders: Gabriel Milito (Barcelona/ESP), Ezequiel Garay (Real Madrid/ESP), Nicolas Burdisso (Roma/ITA), Javier Zanetti (Inter Milan/ITA), Nicolas Pareja (Spartak Moscow/RUS), Marcos Rojo (Spartak Moscow/RUS), Pablo Zabaleta (Manchester City/ENG), Fabian Monzon (Boca Juniors/ARG)

Midfielders: Javier Mascherano (Barcelona/ESP),



Tevez

Lucas Biglia (Anderlecht/BEL), Ever Banega (Valencia/ESP), Esteban Cambiasso (Inter Milan/ITA), Javier Pastore (Palermo/ITA), Diego Valeri (Lanus), Fernando Gago (Real Madrid/ESP), Enzo Perez (Estudiantes de La Plata).

Forwards: Lionel Messi (Barcelona/ESP), Angel Di Maria (Real Madrid/ESP), Gonzalo Higuain (Real Madrid/ESP), Sergio Aguero (Atletico Madrid/ESP), Ezequiel Lavezzi (Napoli/ITA), Carlos Tevez (Manchester City/ENG), Diego Milito (Inter Milan/ITA).

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